

CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A saw frame comprising an elongate, substantially rigid back member, a handle portion, and an elongate swing arm pivotably connected to said back member at a connection point distal from said handle portion so as to be pivotable between an extended position, generally transverse to said back member, and a storage position aligned with said back member; said handle portion including at least a first blade-engaging element; said swing arm including at least a second blade-engaging element disposed distal from said connection point, and said back member including at least a third blade-engaging element disposed proximal to said connection point, and each of said blade-engaging elements being constructed to engage one end of a removably mounted saw blade; said first, second, and third blade-engaging elements being generally coplanar and located such that, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, said second and third blade-engaging elements are commonly disposed on an arc of constant radius ~~circumscribing~~ centered on said first blade-engaging element.

13. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein said handle portion additionally includes a quick-release blade-tensioning mechanism operative to releasably apply, at said first blade-engaging element, a selectable amount of tension to a mounted blade; and wherein said frame allows conversion, without need for adjustment of said selectable amount of tension, between a first configuration, with said swing arm in said extended position and a saw blade mounted between said first and

second blade-engaging elements, and a second configuration with the same saw blade mounted between said first and third blade-engaging elements.

14. (Previously presented) A saw frame comprising an elongate, substantially rigid back member, a handle portion, and an elongate swing arm pivotably connected to said back member at a connection point distal from said handle portion so as to be pivotable between an extended position, generally transverse to said back member, and a storage position aligned with said back member; said handle portion including at least a first blade-engaging element; said swing arm including at least a second blade-engaging element disposed distal from said connection point, and said back member including at least a third blade-engaging element disposed proximal to said connection point, and each of said blade-engaging elements being constructed to engage one end of a removably mounted saw blade; said first, second, and third blade-engaging elements being generally coplanar and located such that, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, said second and third blade-engaging elements are commonly disposed on an arc circumscribing said first blade-engaging element, said handle portion additionally including a fourth blade-engaging element, said swing arm additionally including a fifth blade-engaging element, and said fourth and fifth blade-engaging element being non-coplanar with said first, second, and third blade-engaging elements and being located such that, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, said fifth blade-engaging element is disposed on an arc circumscribing said fourth blade-engaging element and having the radius of said arc circumscribing said first blade-engaging element.

15. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 14 wherein said back member additionally includes a sixth blade-engaging element disposed proximal to said connection point, wherein said fourth, fifth, and sixth blade-engaging elements are mutually coplanar but non-coplanar with said first, second, and third blade-engaging elements, and wherein, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, said fifth and sixth blade-engaging elements are commonly disposed on said arc circumscribing said fourth blade-engaging element.
16. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein each of said blade-engaging elements comprises a conical pin tapered toward and projecting from an orienting, blade-supporting surface.
17. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein said back member is substantially rectilinear.
18. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein said back member further includes an upwardly opening channel in which said swing arm is disposed in said storage position thereof.
19. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein said back member further includes a downwardly extending lobe proximal to said connection point, said third blade-engaging element being disposed on said lobe.
20. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 19 wherein said lobe includes a bearing surface that limits the pivotable movement of said swing arm.

21. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, a first theoretical line extending between said first and second blade-engaging elements is disposed substantially parallel to an axis extending in the direction of elongation of said back member, and wherein a second theoretical line extending between said first and third blade-engaging elements is angularly disposed with respect to said axis extending in the direction of elongation.

22. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 21 where said back member is substantially rectilinear, and wherein said first theoretical line is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of said back member.

23. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 additionally comprising a mounted saw blade.

24. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 23 wherein said swing arm is in said extended position thereof, and said saw blade is mounted on said first and second blade-engaging elements.

25. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 23 wherein said swing arm is in said storage position thereof, and said saw blade is mounted on said first and third blade-engaging elements.

26. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein said handle portion comprises a grip portion integrally formed with said back member.

27. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein said handle portion additionally includes a quick-release blade-tensioning mechanism operative to releasably apply tension to a mounted blade, acting through said first blade-engaging element.

28. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 27 wherein said quick-release blade-tensioning mechanism comprises an operating lever pivotally connected to a lower part of said handle portion.

29. (Previously presented) A saw frame comprising an elongate, substantially rigid back member, a handle portion, and an elongate swing arm pivotally connected to said back member at a connection point distal from said handle portion so as to be pivotable between an extended position, generally transverse to said back member, and a storage position aligned with said back member; said handle portion including at least first and fourth blade-engaging elements, and a quick-release blade tensioning mechanism operative to releasably apply, at said first and fourth blade-engaging elements, a selectable amount of tension to a mounted blade; said swing arm including at least second and fifth blade-engaging elements, disposed distal from said connection point; and said back member including at least third and sixth blade-engaging elements, disposed proximal to said connection point, each of said blade-engaging elements being constructed to engage one end of a removably mounted saw blade; said first, second, and third blade-engaging elements being generally coplanar and located such that, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, said second and third blade-engaging elements are commonly disposed on an arc circumscribing said first blade-engaging element; said fourth, fifth, and sixth blade-engaging elements being mutually

coplanar, non-coplanar with said first, second, and third blade engaging-members, and located such that, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, said fifth and sixth blade engaging-members are commonly disposed on an arc circumscribing said fourth blade-engaging element; said back member additionally including a downwardly extending lobe proximal to said connection point, said third and sixth blade engaging-elements being disposed on said lobe and said lobe including a bearing surface that limits the pivotable movement of said swing arm; a first theoretical line, extending between said first and second blade-engaging elements with said swing arm in said extended position thereof, being disposed substantially parallel to an axis extending in the direction of elongation of said back member, and a second theoretical line, extending between said first and third blade-engaging elements, being angularly disposed with respect to said axis extending in the direction of elongation; said frame allowing conversion, without need for adjustment of said selectable amount of tension, between a first configuration, with said swing arm in said extended position thereof and a saw blade mounted between said first and second blade-engaging elements, and a second configuration with a saw blade mounted between said first and third blade-engaging elements.

30. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 29 wherein said quick-release blade tensioning mechanism comprises an operating lever pivotably connected to a lower part of said handle portion.

31. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 12 wherein said at least a third blade-engaging element is disposed in a fixed position on said back member.

32. (Previously presented) The saw frame of Claim 19 wherein said lobe is fixedly disposed on said back member.